Dublin, December 20 - 1862

Dear Mr Gray

Your short letter enclosing the address of the Twenty Ninth anniversary reached me in good time this morning & I now in the Confederates hands. I intend to put it in the most prominent part of the papers and only hope it may not be without some point, although we cannot be expected that the celebration will be at all equal to those of former years. Whilst I am sorry to hear to admit that the Free States have proved unable to put down this monstrous rebellion by force of arms in England, I think the Abolitionists denunciations of a nation is unwise, because unjust. And as we know you chiefly from Irish & Irish papers as are most widely circulated here (and there the worst) only to the bitterness & enmity of their conductors, it is exactly to make you think from us in the worst light. Do you denounce many of us who are as guiltless of the offence in thought word or deed as Jefferson. I should in my opinion act as much as you do but have a better opportunity of knowing the grounds for such blunders. I am I think more able to make some allowance for them. I see a good deal quoted in the Standard & Reporter which is enough to make every one exclaim - Can not the Northern people almost as bad as the Southern. I know it would unanimously to denounce - but many people do not denounce - and I fear even you often too much in this state of mind towards those three Kingdoms.

of them I feel quite sure that if both Britain & Ireland were polled by universal suffrage and the question were put to the people how do you prefer it [Separation of the nakedest sort.]

I take out for no such thing. No
amount of it would do much good. We can
only "stand and wait." That slavery should
die hard is no wonder. It rocket the abolitionists
who were even always prophesied. ... but it do
any wonder that all both men & them who had
anything to do with separating it should suffer
terribly for their sins & those of their predecessors.
Northern in England, Scotland & Ireland are
now suffering from the wound of dependence of
trade — and as to those with whom you are most
justly angry, they are the very people who in
the event of God going to war to punish us, will
most wholly aid, comfort & support him
in comfortably as ever.

As to Brown, before she I wish to do it to
God something out of the pure love which prompts and if
you think telling them something cheerful will help
them off sooner, you had better do so. I don't
remember the least by. Child you teach of. I thought
I had found the very thing & I fear you have no
chance of them from this side.

I never knew a more general complaint of dull
times than we have had for the past year & it is due
to three bad harvests & to ours over.

Yours ever truly Richard D Webb

MS. B.L.G. v.1 f.93